

fall together. This is very important, because if several ends fall together, there would be a weak place in the yarn. The remaining processes of spinning weaving, are not peculiar to wool, & therefore, need not delay us.

The valley of the Aire and of the Calder, with the district that lies between them, now forms the great 'Clothing' district of the West Riding. Follow the Aire up from Leeds to beyond Keighley, follow up the Calder from Wakefield to beyond Halifax, you will find the valleys bursting with mill chimneys, either crowded together in towns or scattered in villages. Whenever a stream falls into either of these rivers, there is a nest of mills with many cottages for the work-people. Nine small streams join the Calder, and each of their valleys is a clothing town or village. Bradford Dale, between the Aire and the Calder, is also very thickly sprinkled with mills.

It is only necessary to look at the irony here of the stream to understand the location of the woolen manufacture in a land of rivers & water courses: much water is used in cleansing the wool, in finishing & dyeing the cloth. Again, the Clothing towns of the West Riding are planted on the South Yorkshire coal field, which affords not only coal to work the engines, but iron for the manufacture of engines & machines. Right-left, are the great ports of Liverpool & Hull. ~~the~~ very complete system of canals & railways conveying the goods between the clothing towns & the ports.

Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Dewsbury, & Keighley are the chief clothing towns in & near the valleys of the Aire & Calder, save immense number of lesser towns. Villages make up the short district on west 'wrost city.' See

complete systems of canals & railway convey the goods between ~~two towns~~ to clothing towns & other ports. Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Dewsbury, & Keighley, are the chief clothing towns in ~~near~~ to valley of the Aire & Calder. An immense number of places, towns & villages make up the whole district we visit ~~visit~~ ^{Leeds.}

Pop. of this cluster of busy towns, Leeds, the fifth town in England, 307,126 in population, is the most important. It is a rich, busy, enterprising town with many mills among warehouses, the former being built, for the most part, round the Aire. So great a labouring population demands many clubs, & general houses, & the merchants & manufacturers have their pleasant dwellings in the fine suburbs of the town, especially about Woodhouse Moor, & Roundhay, a very fine public park. Leeds has, however, its broad streets well-shaded shops & rows of imposing warehouses built with an eye to effect. The handsome town hall, with a great hall capable of holding 4,000 persons, is the centre of a group of important public buildings. The Museum with Literary & Philosophical Society, & the Leeds Library are especially interesting; also, from another point of view are the three Cloth Halls & the Industrial Museum. Of the churches, St. Peter's parish church is perhaps the most interesting, as connected with the labours of the Rev. J. Host. Leeds has various industries besides those connected with cloth: iron factories & foundries, as the Willingdon & the Airedale Foundries, glass works, brass-works, leather-works, but next after that of woollen's linen is its most important manufacture, more linen being made here than in any other town of the United Kingdom, excepting Belfast. The great flax mills when more than 2,000 persons are employed, are at Holbeck in the Aire, a suburb of Leeds, belong to the Messrs. Grimes. They are amongst the largest flax mills in Europe. Barnsley in South Yorkshire, 'Black Barnsley', is also a busy linen-making place, noted for its damask, chintz, &c. Leeds is a populous town; in remote Saxon days there was a little kingdom of Leodis, or Leeds, which took in the valleys of the Aire, Calder, & Wharfe. The Conqueror reduced the town to a walled-tower, the area of 'Leeds Castle', in which Richard II. was confined, but was never fit remains. In the Civil War, we find Leeds taken by the Royalists under

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the Marquis of Newcastle, created the following year, 1643, by
Sir Thomas Lanier. The great industry of the town was
probably carried on in the homesteads of the valley so far
back as the reign of Edward III. In the beginning of the present
century, came sudden vicissitudes in the prosperity &

population of the town, which now has over 200,000 inhabitants.
The remains of Hospital Alley, the beautiful & well-preserved ruins of a
Cistercian house Bradford, or rather, early reach of Leeds.

No. ranking next to Leeds as a clothing town, is Bradford, long
known as the 'Metropolis of Woollen', but as Bradford
manufactures every sort of soft woollen material, perhaps
it is better to say, that all woollen goods which are not
felted or fullled after being woven are made here. The
town lies in a valley amongst the rolling hills
between the Calder and Aire. From any of the hillsides
hemming in the town you see Bradford in the hollow,
the houses clustering thickly, church excepted, have others
& mill chimneys, something like two hundred
of them, rising everywhere. The surrounding hills
afford good building stone, many an open quarry
seen on sides, a circumstance which, while
it gives a raw bleak look to the surrounding
landscape, adds greatly to the appearance of the
town, for handsome stone buildings, both public
and private, give it a substantial well to the air.
Amongst the public buildings are the town
hall, the 'New Market' & the Technical College. Then,
there are streets of tall, well-built warehouses, & of
well-stored shops, while the pleasant villas of the
merchants & manufacturers on the outskirts
convey the impression that houses architecture
is more successful in Bradford, as in some other
Yorkshire towns, being, ^{say} in the number of the metropolis.
The houses of the work people, too, are roomy & well
built. The mill-hands' of the West Riding are peculiarly
full to house, having as comfortable houses as any one
people in England; nor can men work in the mills so
called laborious. Quirves, alpaca, every sort of soft
dress, stuff, twilled cloths for jacket-coats, braid for
trimmings, &c. as made here. All fonda-cills, & others
plushes

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plushes &c &c - as produced at the Mantonham Mill
(W. Lister), a place for its empirical appearance.

Bradford has not a very interesting history. During the Civil War, it was on the side of Parliament, supported by attack from the Earl of Newcastle. The two Fairfaxs; Lord Fairfax this son, Sir Thomas - of an ancient Yorkshire family - being the Parliamentary leaders. Sir Thomas Fairfax has left a memoir containing interesting particulars with regard to the towns of Leed & Bradf. Now, for example, "the earl of Newcastle needed not to raise gallants (about Bradford), for the hills command all the town"; now, amongst the prisoners, was "my wife, the offices behind show the roads being taken"; now, "my daughter, not being above nine years old, being carried before her maid, endured all this retreat on horseback"; - (20 hours, to Tetbury, &c. Hull). &c. &c.

Adjoining Bradford are the Low Moor Ironworks, celebrated for the strength & toughness of the iron produced in iron-iron plates, bars, rails, &c. railway lines, &c. the best in the world. The Low Moor brand is known all over the world. These great iron-works, which employ some 4,000 men, stand upon the north-west corner of the moorfield, where there is much ironstone.

The interesting little townships of Saltaire lies within two miles of Bradford. Every one knows its history; how, by what appeared a happy chance, a young Bradford manufacturer lighted upon certain "green lothing stuff", of which he made a new dress material, a shining, & cool stuff, most pleasant for summer wear. The "green stuff" was the soft, fine, silky wool - brown, black, or white - of the Alpaca, a beautiful creature of the Andes. W. Salt (later, Sir Titus Salt), grew rich by his discovery, & built, in a lovely spot in the air valley, a palace-like factory, & a most perfect & compact little town for his work people, with admirable institutions & regulations, designed to make the mill workers healthy, happy, progressive & independent. Many kinds of stuff besides alpaca are made in the factory, & every kind of wool used in the woollen manufacture is collected here.

Top. We have no space to notice the dozens of smaller towns & clothing villages which girdle round Leeds & Bradford, the two great centres. Beyond on long Pennell after another, we come upon a town in a valley shaped like a basin, that is by high bare hills. This is Halifax, the third in importance of the West Riding clothing towns. (Population 73,633) The hill-slopes & the valley bristled with chimneys, & there are cotton as well as woollen factories scattered throughout this large parish which extends as far as Todmorden. The manufacture of the town are various & interesting - materials for curtains, table-covers, dresses, &c.; the Dressers Crossings the largest mill in the town, is a great carpet factory, employing over 3,000 hands. Before the introduction of machinery, Halifax was the centre of the Yorkshire woollen works, which pre-eminence it probably owed to Edward III, who brought Flemish weavers to establish his subjects in the art of weaving Flanders cloth out of the then much pricier English wool. And "happy," says Fuller, "the Germanus boms into which one of these Dutchmen did enter, bringing industry & wealth along with them." Halifax is rather a random town, built of brown flagstones. It has a fine 15th century parish church, & a beautiful new church, All Souls, built by Sir Gilbert Scott.

Huddersfield, &c.

Top. Huddersfield is another exceedingly well-to-do clothing town on the great coal-field. Like Bradford & Halifax, it is built upon the wide flats & good buildings & various admirable institutions. The town alone has more than 100 mills, & the pretty valleys which open on all sides of it hold many clothing villages. Out of Huddersfield, westward, you get into the moor country which forms the borderland between Yorkshire & Lancashire. Here are many edges, Scott Edg, Long wood Edg, Stan Edg, Moss Edg. edges indeed, each being a sort of step leading to the black moor above. Blackstone Edg is the highest & steepest of these long bare hills. The valleys are often lovely, & perhaps

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placed troops in ambush on either side of Wakefield Green, under the command of Lord Clifford and ⁵⁵ rest of Clifford; & appearing before the castle with the main body of his army, with taunts & insults, marched to battle. So he left the castle, descended with his small army upon the Green. "First," say Hall, "when he was in the plain ground between his castle & the town of Wakefield, he was environed on every side like a fish in a net -- so that he, manfully fighting, was within halberd's ^{thrusts} all the while, his whole army discomfited." Everyone knows the part played by Clifford in this battle, also, "for slaughter spares at Wakefield was called the butcher;" -- how he struck off the head of the dead York & smacked it with a spear, ^{thrust} this crowned head the Queen had set upon Micklegate Bar, "so York might overlook the town of York." Another tale of Clifford's barbarity may well be doubted, -- how he killed in cold blood the young Earl of Rutland, the second son of Richard, "a fair gentleman & a maiden-like person;" but as Rutland was then a youth of seventeen, he is more likely to have been in the thick of the fight than who has been 'gently & secretly' ^{led} off the field by his schoolmaster.

Within twenty miles from Wakefield, to the north west is the village of Towton, where it is a meadow. Here no grass is rich or rank, there is a thicket of wild roses, red & white, growing in living clusters. This meadow was the scene of the most bloody battle ever fought in English ground. Again, an army of the North, 60,000 strong, had gathered under the banners of the red rose, led by the earl of Westmoreland. Henry & Margaret remaining in safety at York. The Yorkists, ^{three} ~~three~~ ^{now} Edward IV. (now only crowned) at ~~Leeds~~ ^{Leeds} & Warwick, the 'King maker,' were almost as numerous.

At four o'clock in the Saturday afternoon ^{the 29th of} March, 1461, the eve of Palm Sunday -- it is said that the two armies met, & fought blindfold through the night

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night, ran into the quiet of Palm Sunday, the snow falling thick all the time, clearing a decent sheet over the slain. No quarter, no prisoners, was the order on both sides. At first they fought with arrows, but the arrows missed in the blinding snow, so the men threw aside their bows and drew their swords, & a terrible hand to hand struggle began. At last the Lancastrians gave way, retreating in order until they reached the little river Cock which winds round the 'Bloody Meadow', was at the time swollen by heavy rains. They descended to the river by a very steep road; the men from behind fell headlong upon those in front, so many perished in the water that the rest crossed on the dead bodies of their comrades.

Memories of Pontefract.

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'A Pontefract, Pontefract! Other bloody prison
Than common to noble peers!' 'Rich. III.
Still in the air valley, in Pontefract, a place extending
historical interest. It is a clear, pleasant country
town with an important market for corn & cattle; -
in the neighbourhood, a rather unusual crop is
raised, the pretty liquorice plant grows whose
roots the well known 'Pontefract cakes' are made.
- It was to its castle that Pontefract owed its ^{historic} ~~assault~~ fame, ~~assaulted~~ - for 600 years, ~~was~~ to belong
to the ~~territory~~ of South Yorkshire. When the Congress ceded
Yorkshire he granted the lands of this district to
one Robert de Lacy; who, finding a high rock rising
commanded by air, raised upon it a renowned
stronghold - ~~an enormous~~ castle, surrounded by a
high wall with seven towers; ^{justly regarded by} ~~an~~ a deep moat.
Pontefract first becomes the centre of important historical
events in connection with Thomas of Lancaster, the
Lord of the earldom, & the friend of a King, (King III).
who dwelt at his castle of Pontefract with princely state.
He was the people's friend. & throughout England men
looked to him for deliverance from the oppressive taxation
which Edward III's devotion to favourites, idle pleasure,
Lancaster that the outraged baron rose to avenge, and
the

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only to injuries, but the insults they had received at the hands of Sirs Lavelton. They followed the gauntlet to Scarborough, where he had taken refuge, took the castle, secured his prisoners, & carried him to Blacklow Hill, near Warwick, where he was beheaded by order of Lancaster.

New Gauntlet arose, - this time, two de la Spencers, father & son, who had been, in the first place, dependents of Lancaster. Again the barons were under their former leader, but this time to be defeated. A battle was fought at Boroughbridge on the Ouse; Lancaster was beaten, & was carried down the Ouse to York, & thence to his own castle of Pontefract which the king had seized. There he was tried as a traitor before Edward II, condemned to death. The high ground above the castle is known to this day as St. Thomas's Hill. Thither he was led on a grey pony, the crowd peltting him with mud. "King of heavens!" he cried, "grant me mercy, for my earthly King hath forsaken me!" He was beheaded at the top of the hill, 1322. But the king did not lose his adversary. Henceforth, Lancaster grimed in the popular imagination as a saint-smarty who had suffered for the public good. Miracles, it was said, were wrought at his tomb; offerings were brought to his shrine; & whether or not he was duly canonized by the Pope, it is as 'St. Thomas' he is oft remembered with St. Pontefract.

Still within the 14th century (1392), this castle was the scene of tragedy. It was the last prison of Richard II, after his decree that he should be kept for life in some lonely castle, "infrequentated by any concourse of people." Three of his Yorkshire castles had been already tried, - Leeds, Richmond, & Scarborough. He had not been long at Pontefract when no news of his death was made public. How he died is not certainly known; we all know Shakespeare's version, that he was murdered, strangled manfully, overpowered by numbers; another version is that he died of starvation, & a third, that he did indeed die of starvation, but of his own will, unable to support the wiles of his condition. The history of Pontefract is the history of England, with so many leading events in this northern stronghold associated; we will only notice those which belong peculiarly

in north county as the company picturesque ruins of
wolfees abbeys as in Yorkshire, monasteries of the order
for the dissolution of the lesser & the greater (1536-¹⁵³⁶)
such condescension. There were over 80 monasteries
of all sizes in the county. The effect of the dissolution
was not only to turn the monks adrift, but to throw
their labourers, an enormous number, out of work,
to deprive the poor of those means of aid which modern
institution - the hospital, the workhouse, what not, - supply
but for all of which the peasant of pre-reformation
days looked to the neighbouring monastery. Some
other causes of discontent were at work; & the country
was in a ferment, clairvoyant men rampant from
village to village, threatening mutinies across on
all hands. Men began to arm, they were ripe for
anything; but, meantime, they wanted a leader.

It happened that Robert Aske, the second son of Yorkshire
Squire of that name, having occasion to pass through
Lincolnshire - already in insurrection - was seized
by the rebels. They compelled to take their pledge of
fellowship. He returned to Yorkshire, still uncertain
as to his own views ~~as to~~ to his movement; but then, to
his surprise, he found all men astir, & all waiting
for him. A letter had been passed through the country in
his name, calling upon the people to defend the Church.
He accepted the role of leader, & the rebels assembled
promptly in great force on the common of Market
Weighton. Nobles & peasants alike flocked in upon him,
& he speedily found himself at the head of an army.
~~York, Pontefract, Hull, fell into the hands of the rebels.~~
Then came news that the King's troops under the
Earl of Shrewsbury, had reached Doncaster, where
they were stopped by the dwelling of the Don. Meanwhile
the leaders of the northern army sat in council
at Pontefract. And, withal, Shrewsbury sent the General
Armed with a proclamation from the King, which he
was not permitted to read, but being carried into
the presence of Aske, he was ~~so~~ ^{so} impressed
with his "pomp & countenance" that he fell on his knee

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hows, & ask speedily joined him self at the
head of an army. The rebels marched upon York,
which surrendered at once. Then, they attempted
Pontefract Castle, the governor of which, being
scarcely friendly, was ready enough to surrender,
hastily, too, get into their hands. Then followed
a great council of the rebels ^{survivors} told at Pontefract,
where the noble families of the north scattered in pro-
of the King's troops, under the Earl of Shrewsbury
had reached Doncaster, where they were stopped
by the swelling of the Don which "suddenly rose
so much & height, depthness, & breedeth, that the
like woman that did then inhabit-could tell
that ever they saw it before."

Meantime, the leaders of the northern army
sat in council at Pontefract. And, that the
Shrewsbury sent the Lancastrian Herald with
a proclamation from the King, which he was
not allowed to fix upon the Market Cross. He
was brought into a chamber of the castle, &
set to Robert Aske, "keeping his post & convenience
as though he had been a great prince?"
"And I fell down on my knees before him,"
says the Herald, "showing him how I was a messenger
charged by the King's council to read the proclamation."
Aske refused to let him read it, shaketh him off
his master, that he & his forty thousand followers
proposed "to go to London by pilgrimage to the King's
highness, & then to have all the evil blood of his
council put from him, & all the noble blood
set up again"; & to have the ancient Church restored
in his lands & wealth for & given back to the monks,
& the common people, "used as they should be."
Then, from Pontefract, the insurgent marched in
the direction of Doncaster, under a banner
bearing